

## Neighbor to Neighbor 2024 Committee

John Del Vecchio

Anita Fiorillo

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### Goddard Riverside Staff

Beth Dunphe, *Chief Resource Officer*

Nelly Gomez, *Communications & Brand Coordinator*

Elizabeth Kennedy, *Director of Events and Corporate Partnerships*

Susan Matloff-Nieves, *VP for Innovation and Justice*

Adam O'Shea, *Intern, The National University of Ireland, Maynooth*

Jesse Towsen, *Director of External Affairs*

LaKisha Williams, *Director of #DegreesNYC*

Larry Wood, *Director of Advocacy and Organizing*

**Goddard Riverside**

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

593 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10024

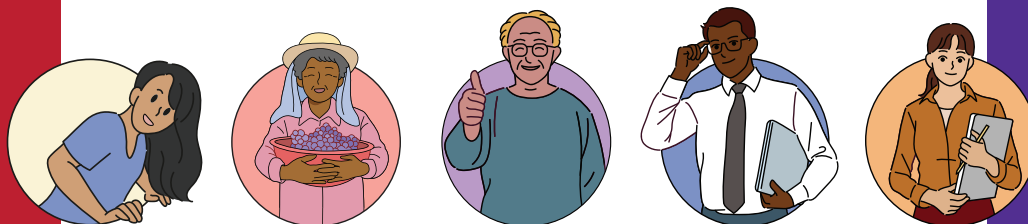
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**Goddard Riverside**

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Presenting the Good Neighbor Award

## Neighbor to Neighbor Awards Ceremony



June 18, 2024

Celebrating those who are  
creating a better community!



## Past Winners

Visit our website for past winners.

[www.goddard.org/goodneighborawards](http://www.goddard.org/goodneighborawards)



Scan the QR code above to be taken directly to the web page!

To scan the QR code, open up your cell phones camera and hover over the QR code. Click the popup that appears.

## Program

<b>Reception</b>	5:30 PM
<b>Emcee</b>	Larry Wood & LaKisha Williams
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>	Rod Jones <i>President</i>
<b>Remarks</b>	Larry Wood & LaKisha Williams

## Presentation of Awards

<b>Awardee(s)</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Geraldine Collins	Gale Brewer & Rebecca Torres
Jameka Collins	Alanna Martin
Johnny Grima	Kierra Sewell
Valerie Padilla	Sandra Sanabria
Rob Sweren	Diane Lifton
Hon. Danny O'Donnell	Rod Jones

# About Goddard

For more than 100 years, Goddard Riverside has been committed to investing in people and strengthening community by meeting New Yorkers' most essential needs. Goddard Riverside provides comprehensive educational, cultural and recreational programs for New Yorker of all ages, including early childhood education, after school, employment support, college access, youth programs, homeless outreach, senior centers and legal assistance.

## ***Preparing Children and Youth for Success***

The goal of this program area is for children and youth to thrive, contribute positively, and successfully prepare for the next stages in their lives. This includes Early Childhood Education, Afterschool Programs, Summer Day Camps, Beacon Program, Performing Arts Conservatory, Star Learning Center, and Rise Youth Center.

## ***Supporting Self-Sufficiency and Financial Independence***

We work to help young adults secure education and employment opportunities toward meaningful career pathways. This includes Options Center, Options Institute, Learning to Work, Advance and Earn, and sector-based career training.

## ***Enriching the Lives of Older Adults***

Goddard Riverside is committed to helping older adults experience an optimal quality of life. This includes Senior Centers, NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), Phelps House and Meals on Wheels.

## ***Promoting Behavioral Health and Wellness***

The goal of these programs is for each person to maximize their individual abilities and reach their fullest potential. This includes the ACT Team, TOP Clubhouse, TOP Opportunities and Green Keepers.

## ***Fighting Homelessness and Supporting Housing for All***

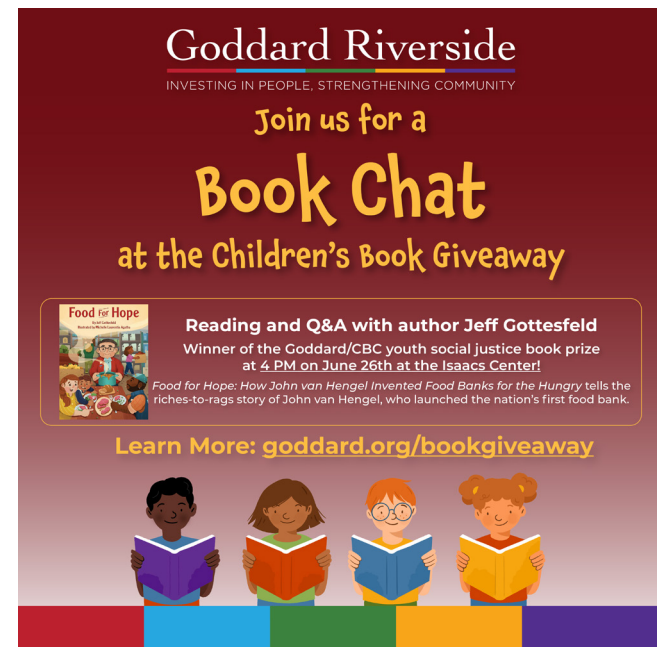
We believe all New Yorkers must have stable and affordable housing. We conduct homelessness prevention work and manage Supportive Housing. This includes Homeless Outreach, The Baxter Safe Haven, Capitol Hall, The Senate Residence, West 140th Street, Corner House, and the Law Project.

## ***Strengthening Families & Communities***

These programs support families and communities to be self-directed and thriving. This includes Community Arts, the Resource Center as well as Advocacy and Community Organizing.

*For more detailed information on all our programs, please visit us at [www.goddard.org](http://www.goddard.org).*

# Upcoming Events



# Good Neighbor Awards 2024

*The Good Neighbor Awards are being presented to the following in recognition of their extraordinary work as volunteers in helping build a better community.*

**Geraldine “Gerri” Collins** for her many years of incredible volunteer work, advocacy work, public speaking, her radio show and lobbying to address tenants' rights, housing & homeless issues. Geraldine or “Gerri” is committed to social justice and organizing, showing her leadership and passion by being president of the Phelps House Tenant Association, the National Alliance of HUB tenants and as a committee member to many others. She is a vital link between tenants, Goddard and the wider political and policy landscape, speaking out on injustice through various means. As a driven individual Gerri has lead, collaborated and organized many one-off and annual events for tenants.

**Jameka Collins** for her volunteer work as a parent leader on the Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75), and volunteer contributions at the Susan G. Komen Annual Breast Cancer Awareness event and the Uptown Grand Central for their annual Party on the Park Street Resource Fair. As a leader she has shown her care, dedication and compassion helping others on an individual level while juggling home life. Finding time, she has supported other initiatives and events always being a kind and warm person.

**Johnny Grima** for his heartfelt volunteer work in connecting people experiencing homelessness with Goddard-MOC staff for assistance, and his advocacy work to bring attention to the need for more adequate housing for NYers — “apartments, not shelters”. Being a former client, Johnny understands the issues facing the homeless community and has tirelessly protested, advocated and fought against mistreatment of the un-housed. In 2021, he championed a resistance encampment shining a light on the unjust experience facing the homeless community. This and all his other work has supported, empowered and touched many.



**Valerie Padilla** for creating and running the on-line Valerie Padilla Women's Empowerment Group in 2018 "based on a dream from her grandmother", which has now grown to five thousand members who serve communities and strengthen families. Valerie and her team engage with many different supports and projects that help individuals, groups and communities. This group goes above and beyond to assist many different people from kids with school supplies to makeovers for cancer survivors.

**Rob Sweren** for his many years of incredible volunteer work and leadership in the coordination of the Goddard Riverside Holiday Meals committee and all the work he has done to support Goddard Riverside and the communities it serves for over 17 years. His incredible commitment has ensured that one thousand two hundred people enjoy a home cooked meal at home or in our centers over the holidays. Rob as a humble leader of the committee doesn't seek the spotlight, taking on the hardest roles with intensity, devotion and without complaint.

## Community Champion Award

*In recognition of years of leadership and support of our community.*

**Honorable Daniel J. O'Donnell** for over twenty years of leadership representing our community in the New York State Assembly. Assembly Member O'Donnell has been a key force behind major legislative accomplishments, including Marriage Equality and the Dignity for All Students Act. He has been a friend to Goddard Riverside and a champion for our community, securing funding for our programs, hosting events in the neighborhood, and providing resources to our participants. His advocacy on behalf of the 69th Assembly District will have a lasting impact.